

VISIT...

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Your Turn

Observe an animal of your choice.

Write a paragraph in which you record your scientific observations. Remember to be precise and to use formal language in your descriptions. Choose words that describe what your senses detect. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- ☒ **Ideas and Content:** Did I observe the animal long enough to note plenty of details?
- ☒ **Organization:** Did I present my observations in a logical order?
- ☒ **Voice:** Did I use **formal language** and leave **informal language** and personal reactions out of my writing?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Did I choose precise words to describe my observations?
- ☒ **Sentence Fluency:** Did my observations allow the reader to follow along at a steady pace?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Did I use subject and object pronouns correctly? Did I proofread for spelling errors?

Talk About It

What are the characteristics of a democratic form of government?



Find out more about government at www.macmillanmh.com

A photograph of an elderly woman with short grey hair, wearing a green hat and glasses. She is holding a large white sign with the word "NO!" written in large, bold, black letters with red and black shading. The background shows a blurred crowd and a building.

Democracy



Vocabulary

compelled
presidential
disrespectful
unenthusiastically
succeed
preoccupied



Political
cartoons by
Thomas Nast



PARTY ANIMALS

Were our country's two major political parties **compelled** to choose a donkey and an elephant as their symbols? Believe it or not, there was no pressure involved. Cartoons were behind both choices.

The donkey was first associated with Democrat Andrew Jackson's 1828 **presidential** campaign. Most of his opponents called him a donkey, intending to be **disrespectful**. But instead of taking the name as an insult, Jackson turned the tables on his opponents. He used the image of the strong-willed animal on his campaign posters. Later, newspaper cartoonist Thomas Nast used the donkey to represent the Democrats in his political cartoons. That's what made the symbol famous.

A Thomas Nast cartoon is also responsible for associating the elephant with Republicans. The Republicans lost the White House to the Democrats in 1877. Nast drew a cartoon of an elephant walking into a trap set by a donkey. The donkey was already a symbol for the Democrats. Nast chose the elephant as a symbol for the Republicans because elephants are intelligent but easily controlled. At the time, the Republicans reacted **unenthusiastically** to this image. But over time, they embraced it with enthusiasm and gave it new meaning.

Republicans today say the elephant is a good symbol because it is strong and dignified. Democrats take pride in the donkey because it is smart and brave.



Find out more about political parties at www.macmillanmh.com

Presidential Succession

Who would take over if the President of the United States died, resigned, or was removed from office? The plan for who's next in line is known as presidential succession. It works like this: If for some reason the Vice President cannot serve, the Speaker of the House is next in line for the presidency, and so on down the line.

- ★ Vice President
- ★ Speaker of the House
- ★ President Pro Tempore of the Senate
- ★ Secretary of State
- ★ Secretary of the Treasury
- ★ Secretary of Defense
- ★ Attorney General
- ★ Secretary of the Interior

REMEMBER: An official cannot **succeed** to the presidency unless that person meets the Constitutional requirements for being president. Those are:

- ★ Must be at least 35 years old
- ★ Must be a natural-born citizen of the United States
- ★ Must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years

Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in as President after the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Jacqueline Kennedy stands next to him.



TIME
FOR KIDS



Aside from creating a new nation, what were three of our founding leaders **preoccupied** with? The answer: the Great Seal. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson began designing the Great Seal in 1776. The Great Seal is printed on the back of the \$1 bill and is used on certain government documents, such as foreign treaties. The bald eagle, our national bird, is at the center of the seal. It holds a banner in its beak. The motto on the banner says *E pluribus unum*, which is Latin for “out of many, one.” This refers to the colonies that united to make a nation. In one claw the eagle holds an olive branch, a symbol of peace. In the other claw it carries arrows to symbolize war.

Comprehension

Genre

A **Nonfiction Article** in a newspaper or magazine presents facts and information.



Evaluate

Make Generalizations

A generalization is a broad statement that is made by combining the facts presented in a text with the reader's own prior knowledge.

Getting Out the VOTE

Who votes, who doesn't vote, and why?

WHO CAN VOTE?

ANYONE WHO IS:

- ☒ 18 years of age
- ☒ a citizen of the United States who meets the residency requirements of his or her state

Voters wait in line to cast their ballots.



Poll workers for the 1980 presidential primaries

Before one national election, carpenter Robert Pike walked door to door in Las Vegas, Nevada, asking his neighbors to vote on Election Day. A famous musician gave a special concert just to encourage people to vote in her home state of Missouri. Across the nation volunteers made phone calls, sent e-mail reminders, even offered to drive voters to the polls, just to get as many people as possible to vote.

Why are they so **preoccupied** with this effort? Did they **succeed**? Believe it or not, only a little more than half of voting-age Americans typically bother to vote in a **presidential** election. In 1996 voter turnout sank to 48.9%—the lowest figure since the 1920s. The highest voter turnout was in the election of 1960.

Excuses, Excuses!

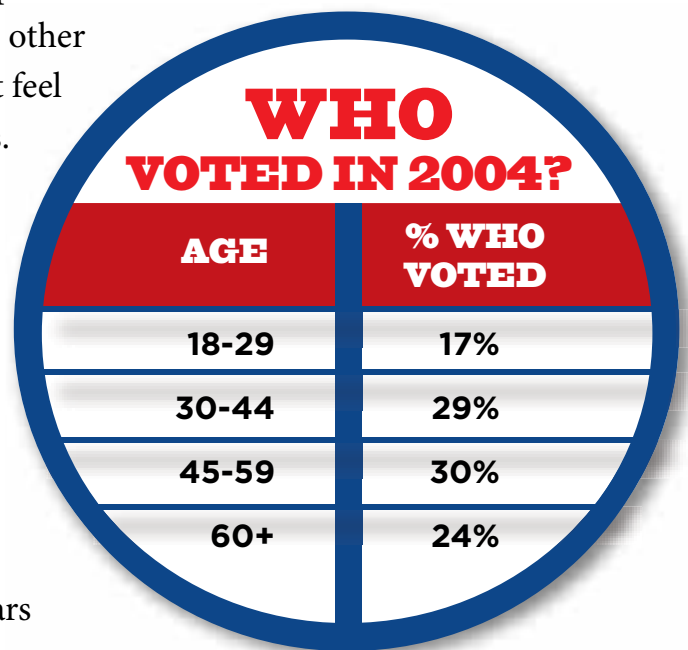
People with illnesses, disabilities, and emergencies have good reasons for not voting. The rest—well, you be the judge. Here are the top reasons people gave for not voting in a recent presidential election.

1. No time off or too busy
2. Not interested
3. Ill, disabled, or had an emergency
4. Didn't like the candidates
5. Out of town
6. Other reasons
7. Forgot

Even in 1960 only about 63% of the people who were eligible to vote actually went to the polls. In other words, almost 40% of eligible voters did not feel **compelled** to exercise their right as citizens.

When we consider how hard Americans have fought for the right to vote, it seems **disrespectful** not to vote. It's puzzling that so many people stay away on Election Day.

African Americans gained the constitutional right to vote in 1870. But many African Americans were denied their lawful voting rights for nearly a hundred years after that. The states where they lived made



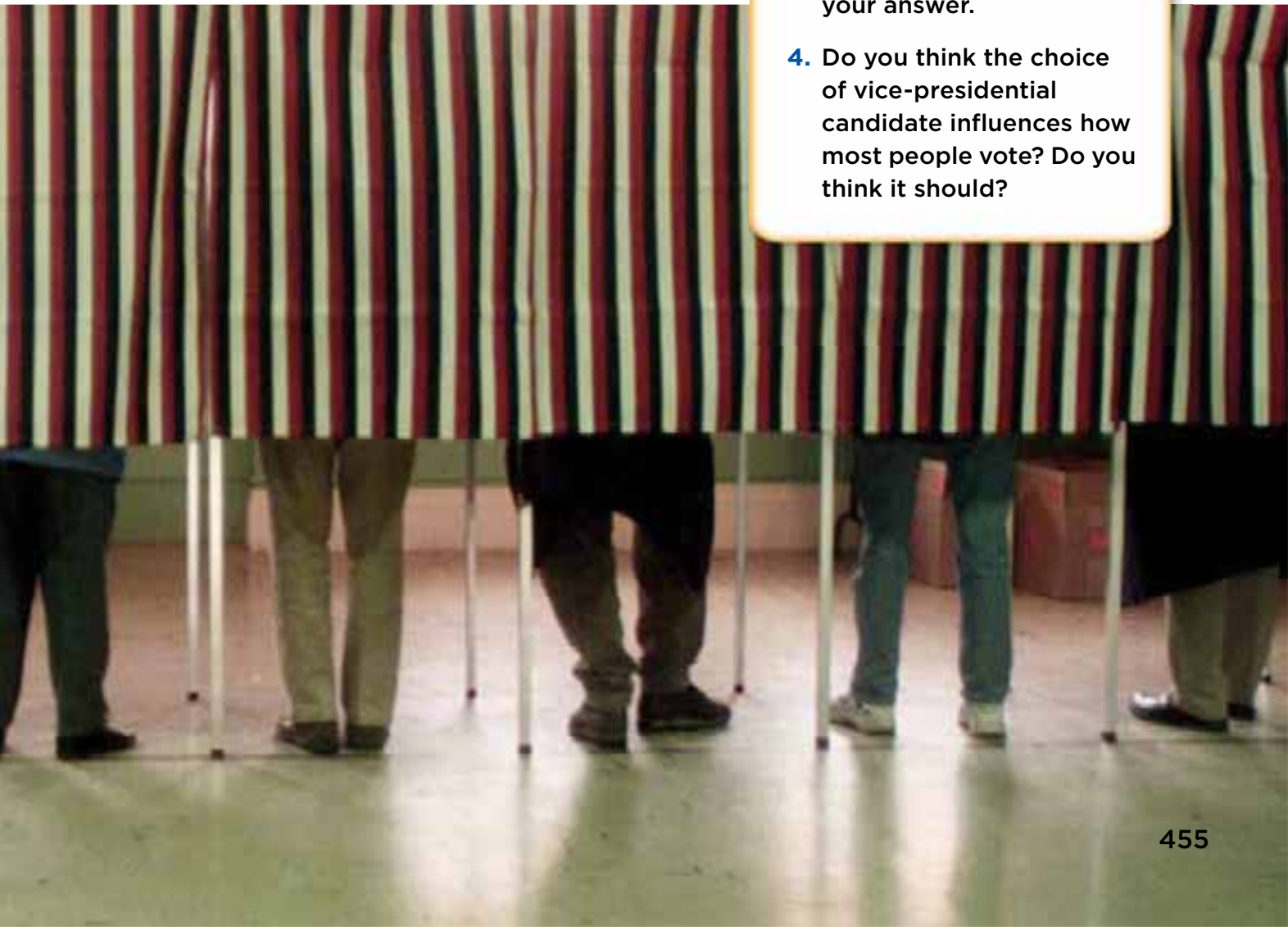
tricky rules designed to exclude them. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 put an end to this illegal practice.

Women weren't allowed to vote until 1920. Until 1971, Americans had to be at least 21 years old to vote. That year the voting age was lowered to 18. But young voters have responded **unenthusiastically** to elections since then. They have the worst turnout record of all. Political groups have responded by trying to register voters at rock concerts and many other places where young people go.

Voters cast their ballots in the 2000 presidential primary.

Think and Compare

- 
1. What are two methods used to try to get people to vote on Election Day?
 2. What generalization can you make about voters who are between the ages of 45 and 59?
 3. If you were eligible to vote now, do you think you would vote or not? Explain the reasons for your answer.
 4. Do you think the choice of vice-presidential candidate influences how most people vote? Do you think it should?

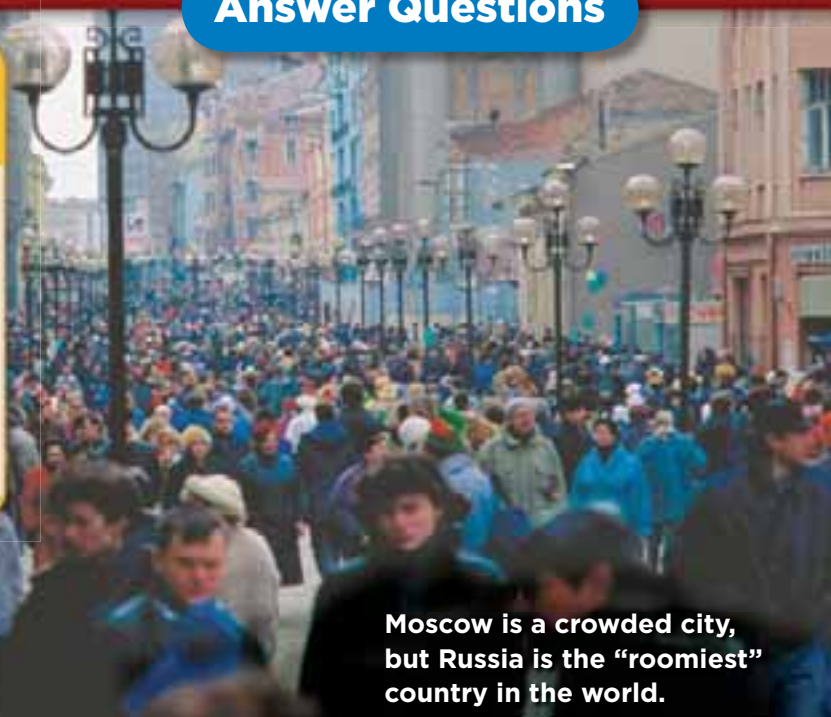




Test Strategy

On My Own

The answer is not in the selection. Form an opinion about what you read for questions 4 and 5.



Moscow is a crowded city, but Russia is the “roomiest” country in the world.

WELCOME TO RUSSIA



St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow

Stretching all the way across northern Asia and into Europe, Russia is by far the biggest country in the world. Its plains, mountains, and vast forests are

rich with gold, coal, oil, timber, and other natural resources.

Throughout Russia's history, its rulers have often kept information about the country secret. No wonder former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill described Russia as “a riddle wrapped in a mystery.”

In 1922 Russia became part of a group of countries called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

(U.S.S.R.). The U.S.S.R. had a form of government called communism. In communist nations, the government owns all property and businesses. For almost 50 years after World War II, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. were bitter enemies. That period is known as the Cold War, because the two enemies never fought with weapons, just words.

In 1991 the U.S.S.R. was dissolved, and Russia once again became an independent nation. It is no longer ruled by a communist government. As a result, relations between the U.S. and Russia have slowly improved.

Russia is known for its strong traditions in music, ballet, theater, and literature. Moscow is Russia's capital and largest city.

Directions: Answer the questions.

1. Which of the following statements is true about Russia?

- A** It is a communist country now.
- B** It is a small country.
- C** It is rich in natural resources and culture.
- D** Russia has been renamed the Soviet Union.

2. How do you think the Cold War affected people in our country?

- A** Few people were able to travel to the U.S.S.R.
- B** The U.S.S.R. was the biggest country in the world and the most respected.
- C** Americans feared that the Cold War would become a real war.
- D** Our cultural events were no longer being held.

3. Which of the following statements can be made about a communist country?

- A** The government controls the economy.
- B** It depends on natural resources to make money.
- C** It prefers to fight wars with all its enemies.
- D** It values culture more than business.

4. Why do you think Russia was “a riddle wrapped in a mystery”?

5. Why is it important for countries around the world to work together? Explain your answer.

Tip

Form an opinion.

Write to a Prompt

A student from a big city in the United States is going to spend the summer with relatives in a quiet Russian village. Write a one-page story about this character's experience.

The Summer with Alexei

As the bus came to a stop, Tim knew this was going to be an unusual summer. He felt as though he had landed on Mars, but a sign with his name on it brought him right back down to Earth -- to Russia, to be exact.

The sign was held up by his cousin Alexei. Alexei's English wasn't very good, and Tim's Russian was even worse. Alexei took Tim back to his family's house. Inside there was no computer and no DVD player. The television received only three channels.

As Tim began thinking up excuses for returning home early, he heard a guitar. Alexei was playing, and he motioned to Tim to join him. Alexei began to play a popular American song, and the two boys ended up singing together all night long.

All summer Tim and Alexei sang songs in both English and Russian. Alexei even taught Tim how to play the guitar. It turned out to be a great summer after all.



I wrote about the way my problem was solved.

Writing Prompt

You are traveling by train in Western Europe at night. In the morning you wake up to find you are on the wrong train. This one has traveled to Russia! You don't speak Russian. You don't know anyone there. You need to reach your original destination. Write a story about how you solve your problem.



Writer's Checklist

- ✓ Ask yourself, who will read my story?
- ✓ Think about your purpose for writing.
- ✓ Plan your writing before beginning.
- ✓ Use details to support your story.
- ✓ Be sure your story has a problem and a solution.
- ✓ Use your best spelling, grammar, and punctuation.